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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

GRIEU et al.

Serial No. Unknown

Filed: April 6, 2001

Atty. Ref.: 677-22

Group:

Examiner:

#3/Pre.  
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Marsha  
4/12/01

For: METHOD FOR EXCHANGING DATA BETWEEN AN AUTOMATIC DISPENSER  
AND A MICROCIRCUIT CARD

\* \* \* \* \*

April 6, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination,  
please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously  
presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3/ (Amended) The method of claim 1, in which conditional debiting of the card is also  
subordinate to a time delay elapsing since the preceding operation of putting the flag into the  
non-ratified state.

4/ (Amended) The method of claim 1, in which conditional debiting of the card is also  
subordinate to the machine performing the current transaction belonging to a group to which the  
machine that performed the preceding transaction also belongs.